



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

October 5, 2010

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Russ Guiney
Director

SUBJECT: **NORTHWEST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AREA (NWSFVA) –
TRAIL PLAN**

On January 27, 2009, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Parks and Recreation, to establish a committee within 30 days, composed of trail users, equestrians and property owners to study the trail corridors in and around the Northwest San Fernando Valley Area and to update the County's Plan of multi-use trails for the region.

In response to this direction, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Planning and Development Agency (P&D Agency) in conjunction with the Fifth Supervisorial District (SD5) conducted the initial meeting with the stakeholders on April 22, 2009. In addition, the P&D Agency has developed a two (2) phased approach for the Northwest San Fernando Valley Area Trail Plan (NWSFVA - Trail Plan).

Phase I includes the preparation of a Countywide multi-use trails standards and guidelines and signage manual (Trails Manual). The proposed Trails Manual will serve as a basis for future trail planning and development. The effort includes collaboration with other jurisdictions to ensure transition and connectivity between future trails within the County's trail network and other trails systems, specifically including the City of Los Angeles and areas of the Northwest San Fernando Valley. Phase II includes comprehensive trails planning of the Northwest San Fernando Valley and trail systems within this geographic area.

Project Planning Updates to Fifth Supervisorial District:

Periodic updates are necessary within each respective "Reporting Quarter," to ensure the SD5 Park and Field Deputies have pertinent and updated information for internal project tracking and to respond to local constituents and jurisdictional agencies and bodies.

During this past quarter, information and updates were provided on the following:

- Trails Manual Community Outreach – “Informational Gathering Meetings”;
- National Parks Service (NPS) “Rim-of-the-Valley Corridor Special Resource Study” forthcoming public outreach meetings;
- Status of solidifying agreements on the (Trail) easement-exchange for the Indian Springs/Falls Estates Trail Project (Santa-Susana Pass Trail).

Countywide Trails Manual (Trails Manual) (Project Phase I)

On July 1, 2010, DPR held a “kick-off” meeting with the project consultant Sapphos Environmental (consultant) to discuss the communication protocols and the goals and objectives of the subject project. Specifically, Phase I – preparation of the County of Los Angeles Trails Standards and Guidelines (Trails Manual), of the (NWSFA) Trail Plan.

On July 13, 2010, DPR hosted the first of two (2) stakeholders’ sessions consisting of key players who hold interest in public trails i.e. governmental and quasi-governmental entities; (City of Los Angeles, National Parks Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California State Parks, and U.S. Forest Service). The intent of the sessions is to identify collaborative opportunities, specifically in the areas of information sharing, technical input, and jurisdictional connectivity. The stakeholders discussed the intent content and approach to the project and methods to ensure public participation.

The stakeholders group focused on identifying opportunities and constraints to ensure a comprehensive document will be developed which is applicable and feasible within the region’s vast geographic differences and various context and site conditions. Emphasis will be placed on gathering input on the Trails Manual from the City of Los Angeles (City) and ensuring that the Trails Manual is representative of the needs of the City. The next stakeholders meeting is tentatively scheduled for late October 2010.

Community Outreach Process - Trails Manual

DPR and the project consultant hosted a series of public meetings with trail advocacy/user groups to discuss the preparation of the proposed “County of Los Angeles Trails Standards/Guidelines Manual” (Trails Manual). The intent was to solicit input from trail users regarding multi-use trails; planning guidelines, maintenance standards, and signage requirements design specifications to meet the needs of all trail users.

Attendees met the project team, informed them of the goals and objectives related to the development of the trails manual and provided an overview of the anticipated scope.

The following meetings were held at Loma Alta County Park Community Room (a location centralized to the County's geographical setting) with the exception of the last meeting:

- Equestrian interests/trail users meeting July 15, 2010
- Hikers interests/trail user meeting July 19, 2010
- Mountain bicycle interests/trail user meeting July 20, 2010
- All trail/interests users meeting August 19, 2010
(Held at the Agua Dulce Women's Club)

On August 30, 2010, the project team successfully launched the official project website. The primary purpose is to ensure wide-spread public access to and the delivery of information via the web. In addition, the website allows more participation and efficiency in communications.

Below is the hyperlink to the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual Web site.

<http://lacountytrailsmanual.com/>

The website contains the following tabs:

- Description of the purpose and need of the Trails Manual
- A news header that would provide the anticipated schedule for the preparation of the Trails Manual and the approximate dates of the next set of meetings (more details to be provided once those meetings are scheduled)
- A link to a PDF of the illustrative diagrams, drawings and figures currently available for public review and comment
- A link to a PDF list of resource materials which have been identified as the basis for the subject project
- A link to a PDF of the draft of the Trails Manual once it is complete
- A contact link, where the public, user groups and governmental agencies and others can leave comments that will be sent to the consultants (Sappho's) Trails Manual "Inbox"

Next Steps

The Department of Parks and Recreation will initiate the following tasks:

- By October 28, 2010, the project consultant will complete a draft of the Countywide Trails Manual;

- By December 9, 2010, public outreach meetings will be hosted by DPR in conjunction with the project consultant in each of the five (5) Supervisorial Districts, (once a draft of the Trails Manual is complete). Emphasis will be placed on informing the public as to the content and gathering their input regarding the Trails Manual. It is understood that this phase of the Public Outreach process will be an important component of creating the Trails Manual.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will continue reporting to your Board on a quarterly basis to ensure you are kept informed of the progress of this plan development. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Norma E. Garcia, Deputy Director of the Planning and Development Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation at (213) 351-5198 or via e-mail at negarcia@parks.lacounty.gov.

RG:LH:FM:g/secky/Northwest San Fernando Valley Trail

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Andrea Sheridan Ordin, County Counsel
Gail Farber, Director of Public Works
Richard J. Bruckner, Director Regional Planning
Kathryn Barger -Leibrich, Fifth Supervisorial District
Sussy Nemer, Fifth Supervisorial District
Millie Jones, Fifth Supervisorial District